

In 2001, Secretary Elaine Chao was confirmed as Secretary of Labor under President George W. Bush, becoming the first AAPI female to hold a Cabinet position.

In 2005, Chinese American Director Ang Lee was the first Asian American to win an Academy Award for Best Director for his film *Brokeback Mountain*.

In 2007, Bobby Jindal became the first South Asian American governor of a U.S. state, and Judge Amul Thapar became the first South Asian judge on the federal bench.

As I mentioned earlier, this Congress, Representative CAO is the first Vietnamese-American elected to Congress.

Representative SABLAN is the first Member to represent the Northern Marianas, and the only Chamorro person serving in Congress today.

And Representative CHU is the first Chinese-American woman elected to Congress.

President Obama has made history by appointing three Asian Americans in a single presidential cabinet: namely Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki; Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, and Energy Secretary Steven Chu.

#### CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community continues to fight for our civil rights as Americans.

Even after the Chinese Exclusion Act, the internment of the Japanese Americans during World War II, post-9/11 racial profiling and hate crimes, we as a community did not grow embittered, or cowed by discrimination; instead, we progressed and moved forward.

I am proud to be a member of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, because we continue to serve as positive contributors to our many communities by investing in education, business, and cultural opportunities for all Americans.

In closing, this Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we take pride in our history, accomplishments, and the promise of our future as we continue to pave the way for a better tomorrow.

The struggles for AAPIs are in large part the same challenges all Americans face. We want a good, transparent government. We want our communities to have a place at the decision-making table, and for our voices to be heard.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There, was no objection.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of this year's Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I would like to recognize the history and contributions that Asian Pacific Americans have made to the development and progress of this country.

Today, 16.6 million Asian Pacific Americans—approximately 5 percent of the population—call the United States their home. More than 70,000 call the 9th Congressional District of Texas home. And they represent 30 countries and ethnic groups that speak over 100 different languages.

The first Asian Pacific Americans—Filipinos—established a community in present-

day Louisiana in 1763 after fleeing mistreatment aboard Spanish ships. Since this beginning, the Asian Pacific American community came to encompass Native Hawaiians who served in the American Civil War, Chinese laborers who built the western end of the Transcontinental Railroad, Japanese Americans interned by the U.S. government during World War II, and extraordinary individuals who continue to shape our nation's history and aspirations.

Today, Asian Pacific Americans have achieved success in many areas. Figures such as Minoru Yamasaki, I. M. Pei, Maya Lin, and Gyo Obata designed magnificent structures including the World Trade Center and the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC.

Authors like Maxine Hong Kingston, Amy Tan, Jumphah Lahiri, and Ha Jin communicate the Asian Pacific American experience through their writing.

The 40 Asian Pacific Americans who have served in Congress since 1903 have been ardent advocates for their community. They include Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole, the first Asian Pacific American in Congress, and Representative Patsy Mink, the first Asian Pacific American woman elected to Congress.

Academics Ji-Yeon Yuh, Gary Okihiro, Madeline Hsu, Ronald Takaki, Frank Wu, Kenji Yoshino, and Karen Umemoto, continue to challenge our world view through their scholarship.

Entertainers such as Lucy Liu, George Takei, Bruce Lee, Yo-Yo. Ma, Sarah Chang, Ne-Yo, Norah Jones, Leehom Wang, Margaret Cho, and Wah Chung to break stereotypes and showcase the diversity in the Asian Pacific American community.

Despite many successful individuals and the significant progress Asian Pacific Americans have made in this country, they continue to face challenges that hinder their ability to achieve the American Dream.

12.6 percent of Asian Pacific Americans live below the poverty line compared to 12.4 percent for the United States population as a whole. Poverty rates among Southeast Asian Americans are much higher than the national average. 37.8 percent of Hmong, 29.3 percent of Cambodian, 18.5 percent of Laotian, and 16.6 percent of Vietnamese live in poverty.

In the housing market, one in five Asian Pacific Americans faces housing discrimination when buying a home. In 2008, Asian Pacific Americans suffered the largest percentage decline in homeownership of any racial group.

One in four APA students is Limited English Proficient or lives in a linguistically isolated household where parents have Limited English Proficiency. Compounding these challenging educational factors is the high school drop-out rate among Southeast Asian American. 40 percent of Hmong, 38 percent of Laotians, and 35 percent of Cambodians do not complete high school. Moreover, only 14 percent of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders over 25 years old have at least a bachelor's degree, compared to 27 percent for the overall population.

30 percent of Asian Pacific Americans face employment discrimination—the largest of any group—compared with African Americans at 26 percent.

And 17 percent of Asian Americans and 24 percent of Pacific Islanders do not have health coverage.

So as we continue to strive for an America that is more equitable, compassionate, and mindful of our place in the world, we should not forget the contributions and needs of the Asian Pacific American community. For the history and future of Asian Pacific Americans is firmly intertwined with the past and destiny of America. Here in Congress, let us renew our pledge to work for Asian Pacific Americans as we do for all Americans. I wish all Americans a meaningful celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

#### ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CAO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my, I guess my gratitude and appreciation for the Asian Pacific Islanders Heritage Month, which is this month. And I say that on behalf of the Asian Americans, especially Vietnamese Americans who are struggling right now in the City of New Orleans, as well as in the other Gulf States, because of the oil spill.

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Many of the fishermen who are impacted by the oil spills are Vietnamese Americans living in Texas, living in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. And even though they are struggling, even though they are having a hard time, I know one thing for sure: It's that they will survive and that they will be able to overcome the difficulties and the sufferings that this oil spill is causing to them and their families.

The reason why I am so positive that they will overcome this problem, this disaster, is because of the culture, is because of the family unity, is because of the strength that is inherent within the Asian culture. If we were to reflect on Asians, at least for me, on the Vietnamese history, we see that many Asian American communities, especially the Vietnamese communities, had to start over and to begin many times in our recent history.

I just want to use my family as an example. My father and mother were born in North Vietnam. And in 1954, when the communists took over North Vietnam, they lost everything. They left their family, they left their possessions to escape the communist north and migrated down to South Vietnam to start their lives over.

After many years of struggle, after many years of hard work, they again lost everything that they possessed, even their children, in the spring of 1975 when the communist forces took over South Vietnam.

My father spent 7 years in the Vietnamese reeducation camps. My mother during that time had to care for my five sisters along with her husband, who was in the camp, and also a younger brother, who was also in the reeducation camp. And then they left everything again in 1991 to come over to the

United States to start everything over again here. And in 2005, they lost everything again because of Hurricane Katrina.

So just to tell you the history of my own family and the ability of the Vietnamese Americans to survive through all of these struggles, through all of these sufferings. And my family is not unique. My family is only an example of the thousands of Vietnamese American families who have endured the same struggles, who have endured the same sufferings through the brief history that I just outlined. And it just tells you of the resiliency, of the strength that is inherent in the Asian American culture that allows the people like my family to survive, that allows the fishermen along the Gulf Coast to survive, that allows them to excel and to thrive.

So I am here on behalf of the many Asian Americans in the United States to declare that I am proud to be an Asian American, that I am proud to be a Vietnamese American representing my people in the U.S. Congress.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. KIRK (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of an illness in the family.

Mr. BACHUS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and May 20 on account of a death in the family.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. ETHERIDGE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, May 26.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, May 26.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, May 26.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, for 5 minutes, May 24.

Mr. GOODLATTE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CAO, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 736. An act to provide for improvements in the Federal hiring process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 5014. An act to clarify the health care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that constitutes minimum essential coverage.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1782. An act to provide improvements for the operations of the Federal courts, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 20, 2010, at 10 a.m.

#### BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to Public Law 111-139, Mr. SPRATT hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of the bill H.R. 1177, the 5-Star Generals Commemorative Coin Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CBO ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 1177, THE 5-STAR GENERALS COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT, AS PROVIDED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MAY 18, 2010

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—												
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2010–2015	2010–2020
Net Increase or Decrease (–) in the Deficit													
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact <sup>a</sup>	0	0	0	–10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>a</sup> H.R. 1177 would authorize the U.S. Mint to produce a \$5 gold coin, a \$1 silver coin, and a half dollar clad coin in calendar year 2013 in recognition of the five 5-star generals of the United States Army (Marshall, MacArthur, Eisenhower, Arnold, and Bradley) and the 132nd anniversary of the founding of the United States Army Command and General Staff College. The legislation would specify a surcharge (a credit against direct spending) of \$35 on the gold coin, \$10 on the silver coin, and \$5 on the clad coin. Amounts collected from those surcharges subsequently would be paid to the Command and General Staff Foundation (a nonprofit organization) that supports the college.

Pursuant to Public Law 111-139, Mr. SPRATT hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of the bill H.R. 5139, Extending Immunities to the Office of the High Representative and the International Civilian Office in Kosovo Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CBO ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 5139, AS AMENDED

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—												
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2010–2015	2010–2020
Net Increase or Decrease (–) in the Deficit													
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Pursuant to Public Law 111-139, Mr. SPRATT hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of the bill H.R. 5325, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.